

CLAIMS

1. A polysaccharide-containing composition comprising polysaccharide and water as essential components, characterized in that an amount of precipitated polysaccharide after performing centrifugal separation at 25°C with 40,000 xg for one hour is less than 65 wt% of a total polysaccharide content.

2. The polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of precipitated polysaccharide is less than 55 wt%.

3. The polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of precipitated polysaccharide is less than 30 wt%.

4. The polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polysaccharide has a concentration of from 0.0001 to 1 wt%.

5. The polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polysaccharide has a concentration of from 0.0002 to 0.5 wt%.

6. The polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized by uniformly dispersing on a mucous membrane when topically administered to a mammal.

7. The polysaccharide-containing composition as

claimed in claim 6, wherein the mucous membrane is an ocular mucous membrane.

8. The polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polysaccharide is agar.

9. A method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition which is obtainable by heating a composition comprising a polysaccharide and a water-based medium to a gelling temperature of the polysaccharide or higher to dissolve the polysaccharide and then cooling the composition to the gelling temperature or below with applying a shear force, characterized in that an amount of precipitation of the thus-obtained composition after subjecting the composition to centrifugal separation at 25°C with 40,000 xg for one hour is less than 65 wt% of a total polysaccharide content.

10. A method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition comprising a supernatant liquid obtainable by: heating a composition comprising a polysaccharide and a water-based medium to a gelling temperature of the polysaccharide or higher to dissolve the polysaccharide; cooling the composition to the gelling temperature or below with applying a shear force; and performing centrifugal separation at 25°C with 40,000 xg for one hour, characterized in that an amount of

precipitation of the thus-obtained composition after subjecting the composition to centrifugal separation with 40,000 xg is less than 65 wt% of a total polysaccharide content.

11. The method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein the amount of polysaccharide precipitation is less than 55 wt%.

12. The method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein the amount of polysaccharide precipitation is less than 30 wt%

13. The method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the polysaccharide in the supernatant liquid obtained by the centrifugal separation has a concentration of from 0.0001 to 1 wt%.

14. The method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein the polysaccharide in the supernatant liquid obtained by the centrifugal separation has a concentration of from 0.0002 to 0.5 wt%.

15. A method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition comprising heating a composition comprising a polysaccharide and a water-based medium to a

gelling temperature of the polysaccharide or higher to dissolve the polysaccharide and cooling the composition to the gelling temperature or below with applying a shear force, characterized in that the thus-obtained composition is diluted to 0.0001 to 1 wt%.

16. The method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 15, characterized in that the polysaccharide-containing composition is uniformly dispersed on a mucous tissue when topically administered to a mammal.

17. The method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the mucous membrane is an ocular mucous membrane.

18. The method for preparing a polysaccharide-containing composition as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 17, wherein the polysaccharide is agar.

19. A contact lens-wearing solution or a contact lens preservative solution comprising the polysaccharide-containing composition defined in any one of claims 1 to 8 as at least one of components.

20. An agar-containing ophthalmic solution characterized by stabilizing a tear film on an eyeball surface.

21. An agar-containing ophthalmic solution to be used for treating or preventing dry eye by stabilizing a

tear film of an eyeball surface.

22. The agar-containing ophthalmic solution as claimed in claim 20 or 21, comprising an agar composition comprising agar and water as essential components, the agar composition being characterized in that an amount of precipitated agar after performing centrifugal separation at 25°C with 40,000 xg for one hour is less than 65 wt% of a total agar content and being characterized by uniformly dispersing on an ocular surface when administered in the eye.

23. The agar-containing ophthalmic solution as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein a content of the agar is from 0.0001 to 1 wt%.

24. The agar-containing ophthalmic solution as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein a content of the agar is from 0.001 to 0.5 wt%.

25. The agar-containing ophthalmic solution as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein the agar has a weight average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 1,000,000.

26. The agar-containing ophthalmic solution as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein a viscosity of the ophthalmic solution measured with an E type viscometer (at 25°C and a shear rate of 100 s⁻¹) is 30 mPas or lower.

27. A system for stabilizing a tear film on an eyeball surface by administering an ophthalmic solution comprising agar.